Caution is requiſite, that the beads, in ſealing the bowl at top, do not adhere thereto, being thereby very liable to break in boiling, or after: likewiſe the rounds ſhould not touch one the other, being liable therefrom to the ſame inconvenience. I have made ſome with three rounds, but find them not better than with two.

A diagonal one may be conſtructed in the ſame manner, thence capable of being removed from place to place. I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's,

And the learned Society's,

Very humble and obliged ſervant,

E. Spry.

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## XIII. *A Letter from Mr.* Woollcombe, *Surgeon at* Plymouth Dock, *to Dr.* Huxham, *F. R. S. concerning the Caſe of a Locked Jaw.*

Read March 7, 1765.

ACcording to your deſire, I have ſent you the caſe of the locked jaw I lately had under my care. On Saturday June 2, in the afternoon, I was ſent for to a poor woman, who an hour or two before had been taken with an

oppreſſion at her breaſt, attended with a ſlight pain in her ſide, and at the ſame time complained of a ſoreneſs in her jaws, and a little difficulty in ſwallowing; as I then took it to be only a common cold, ſhe had fourteen ounces of blood drawn off, and ſome nitrous medicines ſent her. Upon viſiting her the next morning, I found her relieved as to her breaſt and ſide, but her jaw was fixed, and almoſt cloſed, with a very great difficulty of ſwallowing. Upon a further enquiry, and ſhort reflexions, I was ſoon convinced, ſhe had, that terrible ſymptom, a locked jaw. As this diſorder is more frequently the conſequence of external injuries than from internal cauſes, I enquired whether ſhe had any kind of wound, or cut; and was told, that about eight days before a ruſty nail had run into the bottom of her foot; and though the wound was painful for two or three days, yet it was cured by their own applications, and had been well four days before ſhe was taken with the above complaints.

I therefore examined the foot, and found it quite whole, though upon preſſing the tendons of the foot ſhe expreſſed a little uneaſineſs. I now endeavoured to relieve this terrible malady; as the blood drawn the preceding day, was of a firm texture, and her pulſe full and tenſe, I took away fourteen ounces, which proved ſizy; and having procured ſome ſtools, gave her an anodyne of forty drops of T. Thebaica, in a very ſmall vehicle, which ſhe ſwallowed with great difficulty. I then applied a large bliſter to her back, but without any relief. Soon after ſhe was ſeized with frequent convulſions, which for the time deprived her of her ſenſes; and tho' in the intervals they were quite perfect,

perfect, and her jaw not quite ſo ſhut, but a little might be put into her mouth by a teaſpoon; yet ſo great were the ſpaſms, that ſhe never after could ſwallowing any thing; and in this manner ſhe continued, with ſhort remiſſion of the ſpaſms, till two o'clock the next day, Monday 4th, when death put an end to her miſery. I have been ſince told, that an hour before ſhe died, ſhe could open her jaw, at which ſhe ſeemed to be greatly rejoiced; but it was of a ſhort duration, the convulſions again returning, and a univerſal one carried her off.

Give me leave to make an obſervation on the caſe, which I ſubmit to your better judgment. That a locked jaw ſhould often be the conſequence of an external wound, is nothing new, ſeveral caſes having happened that put it beyond doubt; but that ſymptoms ſhould come on after a ſlight contuſed wound that had been cured for four or five days; and make ſuch a rapid progreſs, as to carry off the patient, in little more than forty-eight hours after the firſt appearance of the ſymptoms, is very remarkable. We are certainly much in the dark, in regard to the nervous ſyſtem; but I think it a ſtrong preſumption, that from the firſt impreſſion of the nail, the nerves were ſo peculiarly affected, that, though the irritation was not ſufficient to hinder the external wound from healing, yet it might be ſufficient to diſpoſe them to ſuffer thoſe violent agitations, which ended ſo fatally.

On the other hand, is there any reaſon to conclude, that it was from an inward affection of the nervous ſyſtem; the wound being well, and the woman able to walk about and manage her family matters?

If the above caſe is worthy of your mature reflexions, it will be a great ſatisfaction to,

SIR,

Your moſt humble ſervant,

Tho. Woollcombe.

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## XIV. *A Deſcription of a beautiful* Chineſe *Pheaſant; the Feathers and Drawing of which were ſent from* Canton *to* John Fothergill, *M. D. F. R. S. By Mr.* George Edwards, *F. R. S.*

Read March 7, 1765.

THE Argus is a ſpecies of the pheaſant, the largeſt of that genus yet known, being equal in ſize to a full-grown turkey-cock, from one of the moſt northern provinces of China. I take it to be a male bird, by the beautyful red ſkin ou the fore-part of the head, and its fine blue changeable creſt and neck; the females of all the different ſpecies of pheaſants yet diſcovered having little or no gaudy colours about their heads.

The beak is made like that of our pheaſant, of a yellowiſh-white colour: the fore-part of the head, and the begining of the throat, is covered with a fine ſcarlet ſkin, ſeemingly void of feathers, but is rough with a kind of grain. The irides of the eyes are orange-coloured, more yellow next the pupil, and redder